

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Conference Room 1  
Thursday, March 15, 2018  
8:00 AM**

2018 APR -2 AM 9: 22

**Call to Order**

Chair Anne Marie Mahoney called a regular meeting of the Capital Budget Committee (CBC) to order at 8:08 a.m.

Members Present: Chair Mahoney, M. Patricia Brusch, Mark Paolillo (BOS) [arrived at 8:28], Jenny Fallon (WC), Stephen Pinkerton (PB), Susan Burgess-Cox (SC), Rebecca Vose

Mr. Glen Castro, Budget Analyst  
Mr. Matt Haskell, Administrative Assistant

Chair Mahoney began by turning to the first item on the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of February 8, 2018 as amended were approved unanimously.

**Meet with the Fire Department**

Chair Mahoney welcomed Fire Chief David Frizzell and Assistant Fire Chief Wayne Haley to the CBC table. Chief Frizzell updated the CBC on several current Capital Budget items, which have been ordered and/or purchased.

Chief Frizzell then reported that this year's Capital Budget requests include the replacement of 2005 Engine 2 (pumper truck) at a project cost of \$656K. Both the current truck and reserve Engine 4 have considerable corrosion as a result of salt/brine used to treat icing on the roadways. In answer to a question about consequences of *not* replacing the engine, the Chief explained that the truck would have increased maintenance costs now and would not last as long. It comes down to the adage: pay now or pay more later.

The second request includes ambulance funding and ALS equipment. The question was raised: is the money for these requests coming from the ambulance receipts? It's possible that this may be the *source* of Capital Budget funding as opposed to an *increase* to the Capital Budget. Chair Mahoney said that Capital Budget "turn back money" has not been reported yet. The Chief explained the ambulance funding and noted that this revenue is difficult to predict. He also provided two reasons why the Fire Department's turn-backs are less and less: 1) inflation consumes more project dollars; 2) the delay between when cost estimates are done and when the equipment is actually purchased increases the actual cost.

The CBC then explored financing strategies for the Fire Department's requests, as well as for the overall capital budget. Ms. Brusch requested that Floyd Carman, Town Treasurer, attend an upcoming CBC meeting to discuss the financing strategy. Mr. Paolillo reported that the FY2021 budget would have a \$4M deficit. In his view, a broader conversation will need to take place concerning where the money for this and other requests will come from. The deficits, looking ahead, are daunting. The town, he added, will need to focus on the things it *needs* and not things it desires or wishes.

The CBC then discussed the money needed for the fire station repairs. Ms. Brusch raised the issue of the sidewalk requests from the School Department, from Community Development, etc. Sidewalk money, she said, was put aside (from the recent override).

Chief Frizzell thanked the Board and the CBC for being "ahead of the curve" on replacing the turnout gear, which is being linked to cancer in some instances.

### **Meet with the Police Department**

Chief Richard McLaughlin and Assistant Chief James MacIsaac joined the CBC table. Chief McLaughlin began by stating the department's Capital Budget request is to replace the domain control servers (\$24,000). These servers have a useful life of 5 years. This is a pro-active request to avoid having servers that are no longer serviced by the manufacturer and no replacement parts. He explained other requests that are coming down the road and noted where potential funding is coming from (donations, grant, etc.).

### **Setting of Future Meeting Dates**

*All Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.*

March 22	IT and Town Clerk
March 29	Facilities, Schools, and Library
April 5	Community Development and DPW
April 12	Straw Poll
April 26	Final Vote and TM articles

### **Sidewalk Policy Review**

Mr. Paolillo provided some history of the BOS's sidewalk repair and replacement policy. He reported that Glen Clancy, Director of Community Development, has reviewed the number of streets (40) that also needed some type of curbing. Mr. Clancy says he can fund the curbing needs from his current pavement management budget (\$300K). The Board, he explained, adopted a policy concerning curbing that will allow Mr. Clancy to move forward.

Mr. Paolillo added that he was unaware of the current sidewalk requests that are coming before the CBC. Ms. Brusch reviewed those specific sidewalk requests. She explained that money had been allocated for sidewalks from the override. Selectman Paolillo agreed that these requests

should not be funded from the Capital Budget. Ms. Fallon asked that all departments be informed that their sidewalk requests are appropriately directed to Community Development, not the CBC.

The Community Development sidewalk requests were briefly reviewed; some were deemed to be more appropriate coming out of the Pavement Management budget. Perhaps the sidewalks that are located in schools zones are an exception.

The CBC briefly discussed the policies relating to curbing and sidewalks. Also explored was the need to increase the Capital Budget allocation. Ms. Fallon noted that IT requests may need to come out of the Operating Budget. Chair Mahoney added that the Capital Budget allocation this year is \$1.4M, which is the same as it was in 2011. The CBC needs a minimum of \$3M a year. Mr. Paolillo agreed that “guidelines” should be established in order to fund the Capital Budget – perhaps 20% of the total budget.

The CBC moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rebecca Vose, Secretary